Dear Prof. Ziad Memish,

We hope that you previously received our email soliciting your expert opinion and requesting your participation in a short multidisciplinary process to assess spillover risk from newly detected viruses. As an expert in the field of infectious diseases, your contribution to this exercise would be highly valued and appreciated. If possible, please take a moment of your time to review the information below, and complete the attached worksheet. We anticipate the time allocation to this exercise will be **10** to **20 minutes**.

As you may have heard, the USAID-supported PREDICT project (www.predict.global) has identified short sequences from nearly 1000 unique viral taxonomic units (by consensus PCR followed by sanger sequencing) from viral families known to have members that cause zoonotic diseases. These viruses have been detected in samples collected from animals in more than 20 countries in tropical regions considered to be hotspots for emerging zoonotic disease risk.

As a globally renowned scientist in the field of infectious diseases, we would like to incorporate your expert opinion into an evaluation of the relative impact that select host, environmental, and viral factors contribute to the risk of a new human viral spillover or epidemic event that might originate from novel or known viruses of animal origin. At this point, we are primarily interested in how much each parameter contributes to the overall risk of such an event occurring. The levels of severity within each of the parameters will be evaluated through a different process.

The expert opinion you provide will be combined with that of other top experts in the field and is intended to contribute to a risk ranking module that will be distributed to and evaluated by the scientific community both through the peer-reviewed publication process and via an interactive web application. All contributions to this exercise are voluntary, and identifying information will not be published or be otherwise made available unless you let us know that it is acceptable/desirable to acknowledge you. We are only soliciting opinions from a select group of professionals with relevant expertise; therefore, we ask that the attached worksheet remain confidential and not to be shared with others.
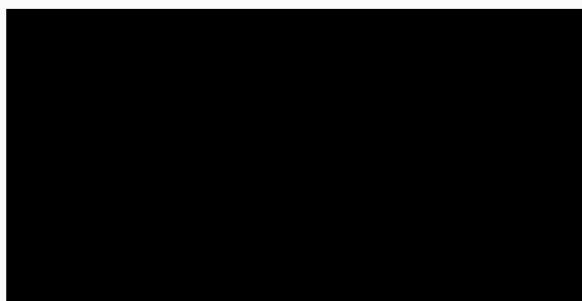
Instructions:

1. Please open and save the worksheet with your initials in the title (i.e. RiskRankingPartipantWorksheet_ZG.xlsx)
2. Complete the 'Demographic Information' at the top of the spreadsheet
3. Answer all categories for 'CONTRIBUTION TO THE RISK OF A NEW HUMAN VIRAL SPILLOVER OR EPIDEMIC EVENT OF ANIMAL-ORIGIN' and 'LEVEL OF EXPERTISE' using provided dropdown options
4. Please return your completed worksheet ASAP to REDACTED original deadline **April 28th 2017** extended for your participation to May 12 or by arrangement if this date is impossible and you would still like to contribute.

We sincerely hope that we can count on your important involvement in the process and that you will accept our gratitude for your time and contribution to scientific collaboration.

Sincerely,

Prof. Jonna Mazet

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